

In the claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-4. (Withdrawn)

5. (Currently amended) A method of forming a fastening assembly comprising:

continuously molding a ~~continuous~~ sheet-form base having a multiplicity of molded fastener element ~~integrally molded with and stem portions~~ extending integrally from the sheet-form base in a fastening section ~~of a surface of the base~~ lying generally in a plane; while;

~~the base, as molded, having~~ continuously molding a non-planar undulation in which the base extends out of its plane to form a peak that extends along a longitudinal direction of said base with opposite major surfaces of the base remaining generally parallel, the undulation being elastically deformable to enable said base to stretch laterally upon application of a lateral tensile force to the fastening assembly.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the base, as molded, has multiple, parallel undulations, each undulation forming a peak.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein said undulations are disposed in a region adjacent said fastener elements.

8. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein said undulations are molded integrally with the fastener section.

9. (Original) The method of claim 5 in which the undulation is formed by a mating groove and channel of a pair of rolls defining a nip in which the base is formed.

10. (Withdrawn)

11. (Original) The method of claim 5 further comprising coating the undulation with an elastomer.

12. (Original) The method of claim 6 further comprising filling an area between adjacent peaks with an elastomer.

13. (Original) The method of claim 11 in which the elastomer is selected from the group consisting of thermoplastic elastomers, thermoplastic polyurethanes, elastomeric copolymers containing polyethylene terephthalate PET, thermoplastic olefins, and natural or synthetic rubber.

14. (Previously amended) The method of claims 5 in which the fastener section is molded of resin selected from the group consisting of polyester, polyethylene, polypropylene, polyamide and copolymers and alloys thereof.

15. (Original) The method of claim 5 further comprising forming a tab joined with said base, the tab extending laterally from the undulation along a lateral margin of the fastener assembly opposite a second lateral margin more nearly adjacent the fastening section, the tab comprising at least one flap for joining the fastener assembly to an article.

16-18. (Withdrawn)

19. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15 in which the tab is formed by introducing a sheet material into a ~~nip gap~~ in which the base is molded, the sheet material being folded about a longitudinal fold line to form first and second overlapping fold portions and introduced under conditions selected to cause the second fold portion to become permanently bonded to resin of the base, while leaving the first fold portion free to be subsequently unfolded from said second fold portion about said fold line.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19 in which the sheet material is bonded to a surface of the base opposite the first surface from which the fastener elements extend.

21. (Original) The method of claim 19 in which the sheet material is bonded to said first surface of the base from which the fastener elements extend.

22. (Original) The method of claim 19 in which said second fold portion is bonded to the base only along a margin area of an exposed surface of said second fold portion.

23. (Original) The method of claim 22 in which unbonded surface areas of said first and second fold portions are protected from contact with the resin by a protective tape forming a barrier to the resin.

24. (Original) The method of claim 22 in which unbonded surface areas of said first and second fold portions are protected from contact with the resin by a protective coating forming a barrier to the resin.

25. (Original) The method of claim 5 further comprising forming dams along edges of the fastening section.

26. (Original) The method of claim 25 in which the dams are higher than said fastener elements.

27-75. (Withdrawn)

Sub C17 76. (New) The method of claim 5, wherein the fastener elements include head portions that extend from distal ends of the stem portions.

77. (New) The method of claim 76, wherein the head portions are hook-shaped overhanging the sheet-form base in one or more discrete directions.

78. (New) The method of claim 77, wherein the head portions are molded with the stem portions.

79. (New) The method of claim 76, wherein the head portions are mushroom-shaped overhanging the sheet-form base in multiple directions.

80. (New) A method of forming a fastening assembly comprising:
molding a continuous sheet-form base having a multiplicity of fastener

elements having stem portions integrally molded with and extending from a fastening section of a surface of the base lying generally in a plane, the base, as molded, having a non-planar undulation in which the base extends out of its plane to form a peak that extends along a longitudinal direction of said base with opposite major surfaces of the base remaining generally parallel, the undulation being elastically deformable to enable said base to stretch laterally upon application of a lateral tensile force to the fastening assembly; and

coating the undulation with an elastomer.

81. (New) The method of claim 80, wherein the fastener elements include head portions that extend from distal ends of the stem portions.

82. (New) The method of claim 81, wherein the head portions are hook-shaped overhanging the sheet-form base in one or more discrete directions.

83. (New) The method of claim 82, wherein the head portions are molded with the stem portions.

84. (New) The method of claim 81, wherein the head portions are mushroom-shaped overhanging the sheet-form base in multiple directions.

85. (New) The method of claim 81, wherein the elastomer is selected from the group consisting of thermoplastic elastomers, thermoplastic polyurethanes, elastomeric copolymers containing polyethylene terephthalate PET, thermoplastic olefins, and natural or synthetic rubber.

86. (New) A method of forming a fastening assembly comprising:
molding a continuous sheet-form base having a multiplicity of fastener elements having stem portions integrally molded with and extending from a fastening section of a surface of the base lying generally in a plane, the base, as molded, has multiple, parallel non-planar undulations in which the base extends out of its plane to form peaks that extend along a

longitudinal direction of said base with opposite major surfaces of the base remaining generally parallel, the undulations being elastically deformable to enable said base to stretch laterally upon application of a lateral tensile force to the fastening assembly; and
filling an area between adjacent peaks with an elastomer.

87. (New) A method of forming a fastening assembly comprising:
molding a continuous sheet-form base having a multiplicity of fastener elements having stem portions integrally molded with and extending from a fastening section of a surface of the base lying generally in a plane, the base, as molded, having a non-planar undulation in which the base extends out of its plane to form a peak that extends along a longitudinal direction of said base with opposite major surfaces of the base remaining generally parallel, the undulation being elastically deformable to enable said base to stretch laterally upon application of a lateral tensile force to the fastening assembly; and
forming a tab joined with said base, the tab extending laterally from the undulation along a lateral margin of the fastener assembly opposite a second lateral margin more nearly adjacent the fastening section, the tab comprising at least one flap for joining the fastening assembly to an article;
wherein the tab is formed by introducing a sheet material into a gap in which the base is molded, the sheet material being folded about a longitudinal fold line to form first and second overlapping fold portions and introduced under conditions selected to cause the second fold portion to become permanently bonded to resin of the base, while leaving the first fold portion free to be subsequently unfolded from said second fold portion about said fold line.

88. (New) The method of claim 87, wherein the sheet material is bonded to a surface of the base opposite the first surface from which the fastener elements extend.

89. (New) The method of claim 87, wherein the sheet material is bonded to said first surface of the base from which the fastener elements extend.

89. (New) The method of claim 87, wherein said second fold portion is bonded to the base only along a margin area of an exposed surface of said second fold portion.

90. (New) The method of claim 89, wherein unbonded surface areas of said first and second fold portions are protected from contact with the resin by a protective tape forming a barrier to the resin.

91. (New) The method of claim 89, wherein unbonded surface areas of said first and second fold portions are protected from contact with the resin by a protective coating forming a barrier to the resin.

92. (New) A method of forming a fastening assembly comprising:
molding a continuous sheet-form base having a multiplicity of fastener elements having stem portions integrally molded with and extending from a fastening section of a surface of the base lying generally in a plane, the base, as molded, having a non-planar undulation in which the base extends out of its plane to form a peak that extends along a longitudinal direction of said base with opposite major surfaces of the base remaining generally parallel, the undulation being elastically deformable to enable said base to stretch laterally upon application of a lateral tensile force to the fastening assembly; and
forming dams along edges of the fastening section.

93. (New) The method of claim 92, wherein the dams are higher than the fastener elements.
